

**MINUTES**  
**MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**April 26, 2001**  
**Mt. Clemens, Michigan**

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present:     Barton LaBelle, Chairman  
              Jack Gingrass, Vice Chairman  
              Betty Jean Awrey, Commissioner  
              Ted Wahby, Commissioner  
              Lowell Jackson, Commissioner  
              John Garside, Commissioner

              Charles Krupka, Commission Advisor  
              Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor  
              Vickie Plummer, Executive Secretary  
              Pat Isom, Assistant Attorney General  
              Philip Kazmierski, Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation  
              Greg Rosine, Director  
              William Gehman, Bureau of Aeronautics  
              Wayne Niles, Bureau of Finance and Administration  
              Tom Maki, Chief Operations Officer  
              Gary D. Taylor, Bureau of Highway Technical Services  
              Louis Lambert, Bureau of Transportation Planning  
              Doug Novak, Office of Governmental Affairs

A list of those people who attended the meeting is attached to the official minutes.

Chairman LaBelle called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Macomb County Administration Commission Room, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The Chairman thanked Commissioner Wahby and Macomb County for hosting the State Transportation Commission.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**Commission Minutes**

It was moved by Commissioner Wahby, with support from Commissioner Awrey, to approve the minutes of March 22, 2001, as submitted. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

John Hertel, Chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, welcomed the State Transportation Commission (STC) to Macomb County. Mr. Hertel also thanked the STC, on behalf of the citizens of the county, for the road improvements made to date. He noted that Macomb County is the fastest growing county in Michigan and expressed a need for additional funding to help repair bridges within the county. Chairman LaBelle commended the county for their initiative in structuring a bond program to make the necessary repairs to bridges.

### **Metro Region Update**

Ernie Savas, Metro Region Engineer, noted that all five transportation service centers (TSC) in the Metro Region are now open. He then gave an overview of the 2001 construction program. Mr. Savas provided information on the high impact projects that will take place in St. Clair County, Macomb County, Oakland County, Wayne County, and in the City of Detroit. A construction telephone hot-line has been installed to provide motorists with information on construction lane closures (800-641-3638). The region continues to expedite construction projects in order to accommodate the public and uses changeable message signs to keep travelers informed. Additional funding has been provided for the Michigan State Police to patrol construction zones. Mr. Savas and Director Rosine expressed appreciation to the staff in the Metro Region and commended them for their accomplishments.

### **M-53 - Washington Township**

Don Brown, Macomb County Commissioner, expressed appreciation that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has scheduled a project to complete the M-53 bypass. He is concerned that the current construction proposal was completed using designs for rural freeway entrance/exits ramps and that Washington Township can no longer be considered a rural township. Mr. Brown proposed that MDOT review the current design and revise it to include an interchange at 30 Mile Road.

Gary Kirsch, Washington Township Supervisor, thanked MDOT for their work on M-53 and also expressed concern that the current design is not conducive to moving people between work and home, and is also concerned about fire and safety issues without entrance/exit ramps at 30 Mile Road .

Bill Watterson, Washington Township Assistant Fire Chief, provided that with entrance/exit ramps on M-53 at 30 Mile Road, response times for fire and ambulance service would be significantly reduced.

Director Rosine noted that the MDOT continues to meet with the townships within Macomb County to address these issues and discuss possible resolutions.

#### Status of Macomb County Roads

Carlo Santia, Macomb County Road Commission, discussed congested travel in southeast Michigan and funding needs of the county. He provided a partial list of specific road priorities within the county, and noted other state trunkline needs including an M-53 bypass in Washington Township, bridge improvements throughout the county, and trunkline improvements on M-3 (Gratiot) and M-29.

#### City of Centerline

Mary Ann Zolinski, City of Centerline, expressed concern that the accident rate has increased at the intersection of VanDyke and I-696 eastbound service drive, and asked that a study be done at this intersection. Director Rosine responded he will work with the Metro Region to review this situation.

#### Chesterfield Township

Michael Sessa, Chesterfield Township, expressed concern that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has constructed a service program project, a boat ramp, in Chesterfield Township without regard to traffic congestion.

James Senstock, Harrison Township Supervisor, also spoke on the traffic congestion created by boat ramp traffic and asked MDOT to look at options to help alleviate the congestion along I-94.

Director Rosine said he would talk with the Director of DNR and work with MDOT's Metro Region to address the concerns noted today.

Jim Ellis, Chesterfield Township Supervisor, asked that consideration be given for an exit ramp to be installed on I-94 at 24 Mile Road to alleviate traffic on 23 Mile Road in Chesterfield Township. He provided that there is vacant land on the west side of I-94 at 24 Mile Road.

#### Update on I-275 Noise Concerns

Director Rosine reported that since the recommendations were made to the Commission at their March meeting, MDOT has taken some sound measurements along the road surface of I-275 and found areas where the noise was louder than expected, and some areas that were quieter than expected. The department is now trying to find an explanation

as to why this is occurring. Tests are also being done on southbound I-275, where some previous diamond-grinding has been done, to study the effects on sound and friction in order to find a proper balance between maintaining the safety of the roadway and addressing sound concerns. Further recommendations will be brought to the Commission at a later date.

Representative Andrew Raczkowski applauded the Transportation Commission and the Department for addressing this issue. The Representative brought forth concerns of the families living near I-275 for consideration prior to the Commission establishing a policy on noise abatement. He encouraged that road noise abatement be included in the cost of road construction projects; that noise abatement be included in life-cycle cost analyses; that everyone in the construction industry be made aware of noise issues; that road noise be evaluated throughout the life of a road surface for statistical purposes; and that MDOT be proactive in the noise abatement issue.

Chairman LaBelle explained that there are two issues to be addressed by the Commission. One is a specific issue which addresses I-275 and other areas within Michigan that have noise issues. The second is the process of gathering information in order to develop a Commission policy on noise abatement that will apply to the whole state infrastructure.

## **OVERSIGHT**

### Commission/State Administrative Board Contracts & Agreements (Exhibits A, A-1 and A-2)

Charles Krupka, Commission Advisor, noted that Item 6 of Exhibit A-2 has been withdrawn. He also noted the low bidder on Item 7 of Exhibit A-2 asked that his bid be withdrawn due to an error on the bid, and that Rieth-Riley Construction Company has been determined the low bidder, as explained in a justification memo dated April 24, 2001. Gary Taylor, Chief Engineer/Deputy Director, Bureau of Highway Technical Services, is currently looking into the issue of the original low bidder's \$50,000 bid bond, and will provide follow-up to the Commission on this issue.

It was moved by Commissioner Jackson, with support from Vice Chairman Gingrass, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### Contract Adjustments

Gary Taylor, Chief Engineer/Deputy Director, Bureau of Highway Technical Services, reported on the contract extras and overruns, Exhibit B.

It was moved by Commissioner Wahby, with support from Commissioner Garside, to approve the contract adjustments. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Bureau of Finance & Administration, Financial Operations Division, Year-End Closing Process Audit Report

It was moved by Commissioner Wahby, with support from Commissioner Awrey, to approve the audit report as submitted. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nicki Brandenburg, Macomb County Board of Commissioners, discussed traffic congestion problems and expressed concern that, if land continues to be developed, roadways need to be able to accommodate the traffic generated. She noted that all northbound lanes in Macomb County are two lanes only, and this appears to be a dangerous situation. Ms. Brandenburg suggested more funding for roads be given to the townships. In response, Chairman LaBelle encouraged local areas to look at impact fees for surrounding areas prior to development.

Vince Zerafa requested consideration of a sound wall study on I-94 near 12 Mile Road on both sides of the road. His concerns included noise and safety issues, and dust from the roadway.

Chairman LaBelle explained that the Commission is undergoing a comprehensive review of the sound policy.

Commissioner Wahby commented on the sound wall issue on I-94 near St. Clair Shores, where the highway was constructed through a residential area.

Charlotte Bernardo, a Roseville resident, expressed concern for the safety of children living within the area of I-94.

Sam Maisano, a St. Clair Shores resident, also expressed concern for the safety of those living near I-94 where errant vehicles drive through their yards.

Sandra Carroll, a Livonia resident, expressed her concerns on noise issues along I-275.

Fred Welsh, a Northville resident, conveyed his belief that noise issues need to be addressed on all modern highways.

State Transportation Commission  
April 26, 2001  
Page 6

William Nearon, St. Clair Shores City Councilman, commented on noise abatement. Improving roads means more traffic which means increased noise, and noise needs to be addressed as a priority when road improvements are made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman LaBelle adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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Commission Advisor